Commissioner of Australia in India met the Chairman of Bar Council of India. The Bar Council of India made its stand clear to them that it is opposed to the entry of foreign lawyers and foreign law firms in the country.

(c) and (d) Bar Council of India has informed that a request for opening a branch office in India by M/s Jurisearch Holidngs, LLC U.S.A. was received through Ministry of Finance. The Bar Council of India considered the matter and decided through resolution that M/s Jurisearch Holdings, LLC U.S.A. be not allowed to open branch office in India for the purpose of rendering legal services. The Government has not taken any different view.

Remuneration and perks of judges

2823. DR.AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recommendations by the Chief Justice of India to increase remuneration and perks of judges joining the bench in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of the steps Government are contemplating thereon; and

(c) if no action is being contemplated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) In case of High Court and Supreme Court Judges; the service conditions including the salaries, allowances and other perks of the Supreme Court and High Court Judges are regulated under the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 respectively. These are Parliamentary enactments.

The pay scales of the higher constitutional functionaries including the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, are fixed by making necessary adjustments with reference to the pay scales suggested by the Pay Commissions for the level of Secretaries to the Govt. of India.

However, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are entitled to very much liberalized perquisites and allowances, as compared to the Secretaries.

In the year 2005, the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Act, 2005 has been enacted that provided for the following:

(i) revision in rate of sumptuary allowance admissible to the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts,

(ii) Improvement in the retirement benefits of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts—Revision of pension, family pension etc., of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court.

(iii) Addition of a period of ten years to the qualifying period of service for pension of a Judge of the Supreme Court who is directly appointed from the Bar under article 124 (3) (b) of the Constitution, so that they receive substantial pension *vis-a-vis* the other judges of Supreme Court who are elevated from the High Courts.

Pending cases In Allahabad High Court

t2824. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in Allahabad High Court for 5,10,15 and 20 years;

(b) the number of such cases which have been accepted for second appeal but are pending for 5,10 and 15 years due to non hearing in such cases; and'

(c) the details of the steps Government are taking to dispose of these pending cases and by when such cases would be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) As per information available in the Department, 165317 cases for more than five years, 172112 cases for more than ten years and 54234 cases for more than twenty years are pending in the Allahabad High Court.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.